

would like to offer my congratulations for her service as the first woman chairman of BCA and for her many personal and professional achievements.

I know her husband, Joe, her family and many friends join me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Brewton and the state of Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, due to a flight delay on my return trip from Iowa to Washington on November 5, 2007, I unavoidably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036.

Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 1034, I would have voted "yea."

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 1035. I am pleased that this important bill, which would protect the credit ratings of military servicemembers and alleviate financial stress for troops serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, passed the House unanimously.

On rollcall vote No. 1036, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON SEA LEVEL RISE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, over 160 National Wildlife Refuges exist along the 95,000 miles of United States coastline and are in danger of being seriously affected by global warming. Scientists all around the world expect sea levels to rise as polar ice and glaciers melt, and oceans physically expand.

As we proactively begin to engage to protect our natural resources most susceptible to global warming, it is crucial to consider our coastal national wildlife refuges under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though uncertainty exists regarding the projected increases in sea level rise and global warming, we know for certain that global warming is occurring and coastal communities and refuges are already being affected.

Studies currently show that the continuation of historical trends of greenhouse gas emissions will result in additional global warming with current projections that the earth will warm between 2.5°F to 10.4°F by the year 2100. Sea level rise induced by global warming will inundate coastal areas, change precipitation patterns, increase the risk of droughts and floods, threaten biodiversity and offer a host of potential challenges and setbacks to public health. Additionally, sea level rise will force recreational beaches inland, exacerbate coastal flooding, and quite possibly even contribute to the severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Refuges in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii face massive coral bleaching as sea tempera-

tures continue to rise. Scientists predict a rise in sea level over the next century significant enough to drown refuges such as Chincoteague on the Virginia coast, Alligator River in North Carolina, Merritt Island in Florida and the Texas home of the whooping crane, Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge. Anticipated changes in climate and rainfall could alter forest makeup and alpine habitats in Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in the Northeast; interrupt seabird-nesting success in the Oregon Islands refuge; and dry the prairie pot-holes in Devils Lake Wetland Management District, a crucial migratory stopover and nesting ground for waterfowl.

A conservation concept unparalleled, the National Wildlife Refuge System started by President Theodore Roosevelt offers a network of places where the needs of wildlife must come first. Without them, many species simply would not survive. Yet, these important areas are increasingly threatened by forces outside refuge boundaries—global warming and sea level rise being among the most threatening.

It is vitally important that we proactively address the effects of global warming and sea-level rise as they continue to confront our Nation's coastal refuges. In this regard, the resolution I introduce today, expresses the sense of the Congress that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plan for each coastal national wildlife refuge as required by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997.

By requiring Fish and Wildlife refuge managers to incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise, we will not only broaden our overall understanding of how our coastal and marine resources may be affected but also draw more conclusive data which may point to a specific timeframe in which these events are expected to occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, due to airline delays, on November 5, 2007, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 1034 (the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference—H.R. 3222); rollcall No. 1035 (H.R. 513, to enhance the protection of credit ratings of active duty military personnel); and rollcall No. 1036 (H.R. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans). Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3920, The Trade and

Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. H.R. 3920 would expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which assists workers who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, was first established in 1962, in recognition of the fact that some workers would lose their jobs as a direct result of our national trade policies. The program is designed to assist these trade-dislocated workers by providing them with the opportunity to train for new careers. Although the program currently includes about 80,000 certified workers enrolled in training, there are thousands of other trade-displaced workers who deserve but have been unable to obtain training through the TAA program.

H.R. 3920 makes many long-sought improvements to TAA. The bill allows for industry-wide certification in certain instances, a change that will eliminate the delays and inconsistent results in the current firm-by-firm process. The bill also includes a number of changes that will simplify and improve the process by which eligible workers obtain training.

We must continue to provide our strong support to workers who are faced with the unfortunate event of losing their employment. H.R. 3920 is an excellent bill that will provide much needed and overdue help to displaced and unemployed workers. These programs are essential to the viability and livelihood of thousands of hard-working Americans. As a proud supporter of America's workers, I understand the vital importance of ensuring the social welfare of our labor force. I will continue to work with my colleagues to preserve their social and economic care. America's workers deserve America's support.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS P.
FRIERY AND HIS 29 YEARS OF
SERVICE AS SACRAMENTO CITY
TREASURER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Thomas P. Friery and his 29 years of service as the city of Sacramento's treasurer. Under Mr. Friery's nearly three decades of leadership and dedication, Sacramento has experienced great growth and prosperity. As his friends, family and coworkers gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Since becoming treasurer in 1978, Mr. Friery has worked under 10 mayors, and 72 councilmembers. Upon taking over as treasurer, Mr. Friery inherited the responsibility of managing the Sacramento City Employee's Retirement System and its unfunded liability of \$60 million. The pension fund was expected to grow to a \$170 million deficit, but under Treasurer Friery's superior financial management the deficit was eliminated in 1991, and the system now has \$450 million invested in it. In doing so, Thomas Friery helped re-establish Sacramento's AA credit rating, allowing the city to borrow money at a lower cost.

Mr. Friery's innovative financial strategies have been vital to the prosperity of the city of Sacramento. City leaders and I have always